"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Late Edition
Today, cloudy, showers, strong thunderstorms, high 84. Tonight, showers, a heavy thunderstorm, low 71. Tomorrow, thunderstorms, high 81. Weather map, Page A18.

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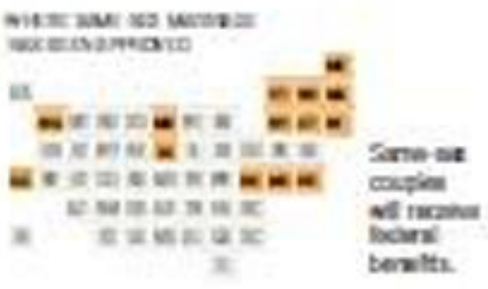
JUSTICES EXTEND BENEFITS TO GAY COUPLES; ALLOW SAME-SEX MARRIAGES IN CALIFORNIA

Edith Windsor, who sued to have the Defense of Marriage Act overturned, spoke in the West Village after the ruling.



Same-sex couples will receive federal benefits.

Couples in civil unions are not directly affected by the ruling.

Same-sex couples who marry in other states will receive some federal benefits.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Court Follows Nation's Lead

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

LOS ANGELES — When proponents of same-sex marriage decided nearly five years ago to bring their legal battle before the Supreme Court, the decision set off a spasm of anxiety among many gay leaders worried that an adverse ruling would set back a fight that many of them had never really wanted.

But as the Supreme Court issued its last-day-of-court rulings on Wednesday, nullifying the federal law that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman and effectively permitting same-sex marriage in California, what was also clear was just how rapidly much of the country had moved beyond the court. Rulings that just three years ago would have loomed as polarizing and even alarming instead served to underscore and ratify vast political changes that have taken place across much of the country.

"Things are dramatically different today," said Chad H. Griffin, the president of the Human Rights Campaign and the founder of the gay rights group that brought the case against the California ban. "When we filed this case, there were three states that had marriage equality, there was one Republican official who supported marriage equality, Vice President Cheney, and public support of marriage equality was in the high 30s or low 40s."

Sentiments against gay marriage remain high in many quarters of the country.

It is explicitly outlawed in 37

Continued on Page A22

TWO 5-4 DECISIONS

A Cutting Dissent — Bans Around U.S. Stay in Place

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — In a pair of major victories for the gay rights movement, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that married same-sex couples were entitled to federal benefits and, by declining to decide a case from California, effectively allowed same-sex marriages there.

The rulings leave in place laws banning same-sex marriage around the nation, and the court declined to say whether there was a constitutional right to such unions. But in clearing the way for same-sex marriage in California, the nation's most populous state, the court effectively increased to 13 the number of states that allow it.

The decisions will only intensify the fast-moving debate over same-sex marriage, and the clash in the Supreme Court reflected the one around the nation. In the hushed courtroom Wednesday morning, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy announced the majority opinion striking down the federal law in a stately tone that indicated he was delivering a civil rights landmark. After he finished, he sat silently, looking straight ahead, while Justice Antonin Scalia unleashed a cutting dissent.

The vote in the case striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act was 5 to 4, and Justice Kennedy was joined by the four members of the court's liberal wing. The ruling will immediately extend many benefits to couples married in the states that allow such unions, and it will allow the Obama administration to broaden other benefits through executive actions.

The case concerning California's ban on same-sex marriage,

Continued on Page A20

Bill to Expand U.S. Database To Verify Hires

By JULIA PRESTON and ASHLEY PARKER

WASHINGTON — The sweeping immigration measure advancing rapidly in the Senate goes far beyond much-debated border security measures and a

C.I.A. Sees Concerns on Ties to New York Police

By CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — Four Central Intelligence Agency officers were embedded with the New York Police Department in the decade after Sept. 11, 2001, including one official who helped conduct surveillance operations in the United States, according to a newly disclosed C.I.A. inspector general's report.

The agency analyst — who was on its payroll — said he was given "unfiltered" police reports that included information unrelated to foreign intelligence, the C.I.A. report said.

The once-classified review, completed by the C.I.A. inspector general in December 2011, found that the four agency analysts — more than had previously been known — were assigned at various times to "provide direct assistance" to the local police. The

tion in some important instances," and that "there was inadequate direction and control" by agency supervisors.

"While negative public perception is to be expected from the revelation of the agency's close and direct collaboration with any local domestic police department, a perception that the agency has exceeded its authorities diminishes the trust placed in the organization," Mr. Buckley wrote in

LEGAL PATCHWORK Congress may need to deal with benefit disparities between states. PAGE A22

CALIFORNIA COUPLES It's "when" not "if" in talk of vows. PAGE A21